

Office of the Seniors Advocate Monthly Update - June 2022

What's Happening in June

[Intergenerational Day](#) (June 1)

[National Health and Fitness Day](#) (June 4)

[B.C. Seniors' Week](#) (June 5-11)

[World Elder Abuse Awareness Day](#) (June 15)

[National Indigenous Peoples Day](#) (June 21)

Activities of the Office of the Seniors Advocate

Seniors' Week 2022: Reconnecting with B.C. Seniors

June 5-11 is Seniors' Week in British Columbia. This year's recognition of over one million seniors in the province is particularly important as we emerge from the pandemic and start to resume normal activities again. This week the Seniors Advocate will be reconnecting in person with seniors and organizations throughout B.C. and learning about their issues and challenges.

[Learn More](#)

B.C. Seniors Advocate launches second landmark survey of people in residential care

Last month, the Office of the Seniors Advocate launched the second province-wide survey of the experiences of residents living in all 294 publicly-subsidized long-term care homes in B.C. and is calling on all interested British Columbians to join the survey team. The survey will look into topics such as care home privacy, food, safety and security, comfort, respect and responsiveness of staff, personal relationships, medications and activities.

[Learn More](#)

Calling all volunteers!

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer surveyor for our province-wide survey of residents living in long-term care? Apply online or call our office toll-free at 1-877-952-3181 for more information.

[Learn More](#)

OSA in the Community

This month OSA staff and members of the Council of Advisors will be present at several seniors fairs and expos in the province. The team will be handing out BC Seniors' Guides and information about the Office of the Seniors Advocate. Drop by to say hello and learn more about our office!

[Learn More](#)

COVID-19

Rapid Antigen Tests

Free COVID-19 rapid antigen tests are now available to people of all ages at B.C. pharmacies. No ID is required. The Seniors Advocate urges younger people to protect the seniors in their lives by taking a rapid test before seeing them.

[Learn More](#)

COVID-19 Boosters

A second booster, or fourth dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, is now being offered to seniors 70+ and Indigenous people 55+. Eligible seniors in the community who received their last booster at least 6 months ago have begun receiving invitations via the Get Vaccinated System.

[Learn More](#)

COVID-19 Restrictions

Most public health restrictions have now been lifted, including wearing masks in public indoor settings, capacity restrictions on personal gatherings, events and more. Proof of vaccination is no longer required to access most businesses, events and services.

[Learn More](#)

Long-Term Care update

Most visiting restrictions have been lifted at long-term care facilities and people who meet the visitation requirements are permitted. Visitors must provide proof of vaccination and a negative rapid antigen test, which may be taken at home up to 48 hours before the visit, or on arrival at the facility. Please review each facility's restrictions before your visit.

[Learn More](#)

Provincial News

Statements from the Provincial Health Officer and Minister of Health

The Provincial Health Officer and the Minister of Health release regular statements that can be accessed on the [BC Government News](#) website.

Recent Announcements from the B.C. Government Impacting Seniors

- May 2, 2022 [BC PharmaCare provides new, expanded coverage](#)
- May 3, 2022 [Year 2 of surgical renewal delivers most surgeries ever completed in a year in B.C](#)
- May 4, 2022 [New affordable homes for seniors in Telkwa](#)
- May 9, 2022 [Minister's statement on National Nursing Week](#)
- May 11, 2022 [Province will finance affordable seniors housing in Kamloops](#)
- May 16, 2022 [B.C. seniors will benefit from age-friendly grants](#)
- May 17, 2022 [Premier's statement on family doctors in B.C.](#)
- May 25, 2022 [Nearly 100 new homes coming for seniors in Saanich](#)
- June 6, 2022 [Government launches preparedness plan for heat events, heat alert](#)
- June 6, 2022 [Parliamentary secretary's statement on B.C. Seniors' Week](#)
- June 7, 2022 [Enhanced alert system, risk mitigation needed for resilience in future heat events](#)

National News

Statements from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada

The Chief Public Health Officer of Canada releases regular statements that can be accessed on the [Government of Canada News](#) website.

Recent Announcements from the Federal Government Impacting Seniors

- May 2, 2022 [Statement by the Prime Minister on Mental Health Week](#)
- May 9, 2022 [Statement by the Prime Minister on National Nursing Week](#)
- May 16, 2022 [Government of Canada funds more than 3,000 projects across Canada to support seniors in their communities](#)

Current Issues and Resources

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) Virtual Event

Join the WEAAD 2022 event “Rights Don’t Get Old: Let’s Spark Social Change” for a national conversation around preventing elder abuse. Experts from across Canada will share their roles and experience sparking social change to advocate for seniors’ rights and combat ageism in all facets of society. June 15, 2022 at 1 p.m. EDT (or 10 a.m. PDT).

[Learn More](#)

On Aging: Canadian Conversations

Healthy Aging CORE and HelpAge Canada are running a series of conversations with thought leaders in Canada on a variety of subjects related to healthy aging. This month’s topics include: June 9th, 2022 at 9 a.m. PDT: Elder Abuse from an Ethnocultural Perspective June 23rd, 2022 at 9 a.m. PDT: Ageing from an Indigenous Perspective

[Learn More](#)

Seeking Your Opinion: Alzheimer’s Disease International

If you are living with dementia, a carer, clinician, formal (paid) health or long-term care practitioner, Alzheimer’s Disease International would like to hear about your experience of post-diagnosis. The information captured in this survey will be used in the World Alzheimer Report 2022.

[Learn More](#)

Property Tax Deferment Program

Did you know that you may be eligible to defer your property taxes? Property tax deferment is a low interest loan program that helps qualified B.C. homeowners pay the annual property taxes on their principal residence. People 55+, surviving spouses of any age, and persons with disabilities may be eligible for the program. Applications open in early May.

[Learn More](#)

Recent Research

Identifying Trends and Police Responses to Elder Abuse and Neglect in British Columbia

(Centre for Public Safety and Criminal Justice Research)

Adults aged 65 years and older represent an increasing proportion of the Canadian population. Similarly, rates of violent crimes involving elder victims have reportedly been increasing in Canada (Conroy, 2021). The report explored the trends in police files involving elder victims of violent crimes through analyses of police data and survey data collected from frontline general duty members deployed in ‘E’ Division RCMP detachments.

[Learn More](#)

Older Adults' Experiences With Using Technology for Socialization During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Cross-sectional Survey Study

(JMIR Publications)

Technology use has become the most critical approach to maintaining social connectedness during the COVID-19 pandemic. Older adults (aged >65 years) are perceived as the most physiologically susceptible population to developing COVID-19 and are at risk of secondary mental health challenges related to the social isolation that has been imposed by virus containment strategies. To mitigate concerns regarding sampling bias, we analyzed a random sample of older adults to understand the uptake and acceptance of technologies that support socialization during the pandemic.

[Learn More](#)

Health promotion interventions supporting Indigenous healthy ageing: a scoping review

(International Journal of Circumpolar Health)

Aging well is a priority in Canada and globally, particularly for older Indigenous adults experiencing an increased risk of chronic conditions. Little is known about health promotion interventions for older Indigenous adults and most literature is framed within Eurocentric paradigms that are not always relevant to Indigenous populations.

[Learn More](#)

Outreach by the OSA

Seniors Advocate Isobel Mackenzie continues to meet with seniors across the province, attend events and deliver presentations both in person and virtually. If you would like to invite her to present at your event, please contact our office at info@seniorsadvocatebc.ca.

The Office of the Seniors Advocate has an information and referral line that is available 24 hours a day, every day. Our seniors services specialists will work with you during our office hours to provide resources and help resolve issues. Staff at BC211 will assist after hours.

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